



Environment and Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes -- amended

October 7, 2009 — 9:30 a.m.

- Members Present:** Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Karla Kramer – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Ken Anderson – Kane County, Lenore Beyer-Clow - Openlands, Pete Harmet- IDOT, Ingrid Danler - Fox Waterway Agency, Jim VanderKloot - USEPA, Joe Schuessler - MWRD, Wallace VanBuren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference
- Staff Present:** Hala Ahmed, Bob Dean, Annie Byrne, Erin Aleman, Lori Heringa, Tom Murtha
- Others Present:** Janet Agnoletti- BACOG, Joy Hoefller – BACOG, Kurt Thomsen – BACOG, Jeff Mengler – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Paul Heltne - Center for Humans and Nature

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Hala announced that Staff is working on a Model Water Conservation Ordinance that will be presented to the committee at the November meeting. Committee members expressed interest in reviewing current drafts and requested that it be emailed at the earliest opportunity.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from September 2, 2009

Minutes from the September 2, 2009 meeting were approved.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Patty inquired whether the Green Economic Development strategy report, mentioned under the Economic and Community Development Working Committee was pertinent to the ENR Committee and whether the Compendium of Plans Project that was presented to the Land Use Working Committee included plans pertaining to the environment, e.g. the Green Infrastructure Vision. Bob Dean responded that the strategy report discusses green job creation and funding and leans more towards the economic development aspect of greening industries. The Compendium of Plans does not include environmental plans, staff can provide more information on this project at subsequent meetings.

5.0 Presentation on Groundwater Model used in BACOG- Janet Agnoletti, BACOG Executive Director

The presentation described the area covered by the Barrington Area Council of Government (BACOG) which includes communities in Kane, McHenry, Lake and Cook counties. The model extends 500 feet to the shallow bedrock aquifer and uses Illinois State Geological Survey well log data to produce a 3-dimensional view of hydrologic layers. The purpose of the model is to assist in local government land use decisions by identifying recharge areas that require protection, analyzing potential contamination that may result from specific land use activities, as well as assisting in watershed and natural resource planning initiatives. Discussion followed on various model elements such as soil classification, whether water quality is addressed in the model and the connection between surface and groundwater recharge that results from interactions with wetlands and other high quality natural areas as well as the need for interpreting model results into policies and planning governance, i.e. ordinances.

6.0 GO TO 2040 Plan Update

Erin Aleman distributed a memo on the public engagement phase, also termed 'Invent the Future,' of the *GO TO 2040 Plan* that was concluded in September. The memo described the locations of the various related activities as well as feedback on the major themes that were presented and discussed using the MetroQuest software. Ingrid inquired whether there were any trends observed on response patterns based on geography. The responses were overall quite similar across the region with few exceptions.

Bob Dean gave a presentation on the first draft of the Preferred Scenario for the *GO TO 2040 Plan*. The PS resulted from input from the CMAP Working Committees, the public as well as staff research and technical analysis on the various strategies. The PS builds on the main themes of the Regional Vision and recommends policy directions that include strengthening existing communities, improving the region's system of parks and open space, pursuing a balanced housing supply, supporting economic growth and innovations, etc. To provide context, outcomes of the PS are compared to those result from a continuation of current trends in the areas of energy and greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, water use, open space preservation and access, infrastructure costs, and other impacts. Discussion on the components of the PS followed with comments regarding the potential of privatizing public assets, how to promote the local government recommendations and the use of the plan at that level, and whether the freight systems will be separated from commuter lines. The plan will explore innovative ways of financing transportation improvements beyond federal and state gas taxes, will continue with outreach activities to reach all stakeholders and will include comments where applicable on the benefits of freight and how it relates to commuter systems. One of the recommendations under consideration is the use of congestion pricing. CMAP's analysis suggested that congestion pricing could raise significant revenue that could be invested in the transportation system. However, a committee member reported that recent studies on congestion pricing in practice indicated that pricing only tended to raise revenues sufficient to maintain the priced facility, rather than generating additional revenue that could be used to expand or improve other components of the transportation system.

7.0 Update on ARRA Activities

Annie Byrne distributed a memo to the committee on the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which described the programs that the Regional Coordinating Council has been evaluating. The program included the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, the State Energy Plan, Workforce Development, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP 1 and 2) and the Weatherization Program. Annie also announced the Recovery Blog which is updated 2-3 times a week to track major developments relating to stimulus funding in the region. Patty inquired whether CMAP is involved in a similar coordinating role regarding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) which may potentially provide up to \$475 million to the Great Lakes Basin. CMAP is following the GLRI but has not taken a role in the initiative. Jeff Mengler mentioned that Chicago Wilderness is working through its membership to identify areas for collaboration to apply for grant funds once the RFPs are made available.

6.0 Update on Regional Greenways and Trails

Lori Heringa updated the committee on some changes to the language in the 2009 Update of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan in which the potential future transportation use of abandoned rail lines that have been converted to trails should be considered. The next phase for the plan includes the review of the MPO committee.

8.0 Other Business.

None.

9.0 Public comment

None.

10.0 Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Hala Ahmed, CMAP staff liaison